

**MINUTES OF THE NINETIETH
MEETING OF THE KENT LOCAL DENTAL COMMITTEE HELD ON
WEDNESDAY, 9TH JULY 2025
AT 6.00 PM ON “Zoom”**

Present: Drs Batistoni, R Chopra, Davies, Elder, Hartle, Hewitt, Lam, Mauthe, Nugent, O’Sullivan, J Patel, N Patel, M Patel, U Patel, Power, Ramamoorthy, Smith (Secretary), Willis-Lake, Winstone (Treasurer) and Wood (Chair).

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

Dr Wood welcomed members to the July (90th) KLDC Meeting. Apologies were received from Drs Bhatti, P Chopra, Hamill and Myint.

2. LAST MEETING, 2nd APRIL 2025 (AGM) – at the Bridgewood Hotel and via “zoom”.

(a) Confirmation of Minutes – The minutes were approved and will be uploaded onto the KLDC website.

(b) Matters Arising (previous actions)

- Pg 2 (7a) Minutes to be uploaded, this is still to be completed
- Pg 3 8(a) Talking Therapies information circulated.
- Pg 3 9(a) Dr Smith circulated the expense form following the meeting.
- Pg 3 10(b) Motions for Conference – Motion submitted.
- Pg 5 12(i)(g) KSS Antimicrobial Prescribing Network (KSSAPN) – After the decision was made at the last meeting to remove this item following Dr Hogan’s departure from the KLDC, Dr Batistoni received an enquiry to see if they could get a representative for this role but subsequently did not receive any further response. **Action:** Dr Batistoni feels this role will be absorbed as part of the ICB, and as such proposed that if anyone was interested to let Dr Smith know.
- Pg 5 12 (v) Dr Hartle has already started the proof reading.
- Pg 6 (v) Supporting CPD events – this will be discussed under AOB.

3. SECRETARY

(a) Correspondence (not reported elsewhere) - Dr Smith advised that she had received correspondence from the BDA regarding a petition to urge the government to take mandatory policy action to reduce the high sugar content in commercial baby food and drinks. (this will be discussed further at the end of the meeting under AOB)

(b) Report of Meetings (not reported elsewhere) – Dr Smith attended a primary care workforce implementation group meeting which looked at putting a system in place in GP practices using algorithms to highlight those likely to need assistance and complex care, focusing on prevention and reducing hospital admissions. Dr Batistoni added that today’s primary care workforce implementation group meeting focused on optometry and pharmacy problems and how they can find better ways to be supportive.

4. TREASURER

(a) Report – Dr Winstone advised that there had been a lot of scam emails purporting to be from one of the officers asking for money or that they have a payment to be made; he asked that members please ignore. **Action:** To chase up a mandate with Barclays.

(b) Statutory Levy – Dr Winstone advised that the Statutory Levy is being paid by the NHS BSA as requested for this financial year and that everything is looking good. He asked that members send in their claim forms with all the relevant details as usual.

5. REPORT/S OF THE LDC ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2025 – held on Thursday 5th and Friday 6th June 2025 at the Hilton, Newcastle, Gateshead [{Attached report}](#)

Members attending the conference were Drs Smith, Hartle, Nugent, Winstone and Hewitt.

Dr Hartle submitted a motion but unfortunately after much debate this was defeated. Representatives argued this was not the answer to a failing contract. Dr Hartle highlighted that she felt that whilst this may not be a solution it would help ease the current recruitment crisis while contract reform is progressing. After a short discussion Dr Hartle said that she hoped that they will be able to find some funding as it appears that overseas dentists requiring a worker visa did appear to gravitate towards Kent.

6. KENT & MEDWAY INTEGRATED CARE BOARD (ICB) [{Attached Report}](#)

Dr Batistoni advised that she had started her new job as Clinical Dental Strategy Lead at Kent and Medway ICB at the end of April. The role started with hosting a Market Engagement Meeting with various stakeholders around the recommissioning of oral surgery and sedation services. Dr Smith attended this to represent the LDC and she was thanked for her participation. There was positive feedback on this event that the ICB were really listening to dentists. The IMOS Service has also been a focus because waiting times are very low despite high referrals. A focus group was held to assess the reasoning for this and the impact on funding in the next round of procurement. An audit of oral surgery referrals is also in progress. The ICB are hoping to reduce the funding to oral surgery so that they can reinvest into other services including a possible pilot for local endodontic services so that patients will not have to travel to London. The Kent and Medway share of Urgent and Unscheduled Care appointments (part of the election promise to provide 700,000 urgent appointments across England) have been commissioned and are up and running. All appointments will be booked through the central KCHFT helpline. The additional Hours scheme will continue to run and patients can be referred back to this scheme if they require ongoing management after accessing urgent care. NHS England have given positive feedback to Kent and Medway on their system.

Action: Dr Batistoni asked if anyone was interested in being an evaluator for oral surgery procurement bids to let her know. Training and remuneration will be provided.

7. NHS ENGLAND MATTERS

(a) NHS England SE & (NHSE)

(i)(a) Kent Local Dental Network (LDN) – currently paused, both chairs Mark Johnson and Brett Duane are now retired.

(i)(b) Orthodontic MCN & Orthodontics – currently paused

(i)(c) Oral Health Improvement MCN – Dr Nugent advised that he had attended a “zoom” meeting on 7th May. They discussed Smile week. West Kent encouraged child toothbrushing and East Kent Smile library. They were given QR codes to access dentists. There were supervised brushing and breakfast clubs. 10,000 (with 3 brushes per pack) were released in the Medway area to be circulated during June and September in areas of high deprivation. In Medway there were 7 libraries in the area taking part and they contacted Colgate in relation to the viability to store the packs. There is concern over whether the packs are fit for purpose. They are looking at a toothbrushing programme in Surrey and they are looking at how they need to roll this out in September. There is concern over if this funding will be ring fenced in the long term. Dr Nugent advised that the next meeting will be on 17 September on “zoom”.

There was some debate that Kent County Council would be able to secure funding for more than one year and this would cause issues with recruitment.

Dr Batistoni said that she had a meeting with Laura Bush yesterday and there had been some expressions of interest with early years 1 & 2 and that they want a mechanism to locate the children more at risk. She said that day nurseries may not be keen to take part.

(i)(d) Restorative MCN – there was nothing to report.

(i)(e) Routine Dentistry MCN [{Attached Report}](#) – Dr Wood thanked Dr Ramamoorthy for her report which had a lot of information.

(i)(f) Oral Surgery MCNs – Dr M Patel said that oral surgery funding is going down, to keep an eye on capacity and for any increase in referrals going up to Kings

(ii) Dental Electronic Referral Service (DERS) – Dr Winstone said that there was not much to report but that he does a Rego webinar every 3 months, advertised on Maxcourse (Hants/IoW/BOB) deanery site. Equivalent of Accent Hicom. Next one is 07/08/2025.

(iii) PSG (formerly KSS Performance Advisory Group (PAG) – Dr Smith reported that there had not been any cases.

(iv) LDC Liaison Group [{Attached Report}](#) – Dr Smith reported that this was potentially the last meeting as Annie had retired and despite there being a meeting scheduled in September it is likely that it will be cancelled. The plan in the long term will be for the South ICBs and LDCs to meet individually. They will then see how the ICBs wish them to continue. Dr Batistoni added that there was less need now and that it was good that KLDC had a good relationship with the ICB. There will be some restructuring and Frimley will be dissolved into the surrounding areas. She said that it was important to talk to colleagues across the region.

(v) SE Coast LDCs (Channel Group) - Dr Smith reported that they had a meeting with Kent, Surrey and Sussex. Discussions took place around recruitment, national insurance rises putting additional strain on practices, PASS and procurement and the consensus was to stop the Liaison Group but continue with the Channel Group.

(b) DentaLine – [{Attached Report}](#) – Dr Davies added to her report that they were still actively recruiting and they were also advertising on “Indeed”. She asked that if anyone knew anybody interested in working for DentaLine to please let her know.

(c) Dental practice Advisors – Dr Winstone said that he was very pleased that Dr Hamill will be taking over the dentists either Agreement Terms (previously called PLVE OR VTE) In Kent. He said that he would continue for those AT dentists in Surrey.

8. PASS – Practitioner Advice & Support Scheme

Dr Wood reported that they had not had any cases.

A motion was passed at conference calling for a minimal PASS provision across all LDCs and support to set up a quality assurance framework and to include training. The BDA have requested information on our current scheme which has been emailed and we are awaiting instructions from the BDA on how they would like to proceed with this.

9. HOSPITAL REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Dr Elder advised that he had nothing to report but was happy to take any questions.

10. SALARIED DENTAL SERVICES

(a) East Kent [{Attached report}](#) – Dr Willis-Lake added that there was some movement with GA and that if there is a theatre or site available she has to bid for it and that the appropriate staff need to be available in order for it to work. Older patients are more tricky as they have to be managed with the right expertise and they have had to cancel patients which can be frustrating.

Dr Willis-Lake said that they could no longer support foundation training and apologised to Dr Mauthe. She did not feel that they could give the trainees the full support that they deserved. Dr Mauthe responded by thanking Dr Willis-Lake for all her previous support.

(b) West Kent – [{Attached Report}](#) – Dr Davies said that West Kent was in a better position than East Kent. She said that they had less than 300 on the waiting list now.

11. GENERAL DENTAL PRACTICE COMMITTEE: REPORT OF KENT REPRESENTATIVE(S)

Dr Hartle said that the last meeting was pre-conference and the next meeting was scheduled for October. Motions are being taken forward including PASS and she is hoping that they will come up with some sort of training.

12. LMC REPORT

(a) LMC Report – Dr Nugent reported that the last meeting was 3rd April and the minutes were recorded. There was a discussion on ADHD and autism and the ICB provides a list of experts best suited to accommodate these needs. Weight loss injections were discussed and their availability and criteria. The contract negotiations are on-going and there was a “wish list”. Out of hours GP services were discussed and the cost of a home visit is £850. Locum, sickness and study leave were also discussed and the cost of these are covered for the GP; Kent integrated system and the LMC conference were also discussed and it was advised that the new contracts are committed to being completed by the end of the parliament term.

(b) LMC/LDC/LPC/LOC Officials Meeting – Dr Smith attended a meeting in May. Urgent dental care provision was discussed and the updated urgent care contact details via the Helpdesk provided to the LMC. Contract negotiations discussed.

13. KLDC WEBSITE

Dr Smith advised that the first three months she has been trying to get to grips with her new role as secretary but said that the website is on her agenda as it requires updating. She said that she may require help with some areas and would appreciate feedback and assistance as required.

14. EDUCATION AND TRAINING

(a) WT&E HEE LKSS Report – Dr Mauthe said that Kent was the number one provider for FT. There are plenty coming through in September and they hope that the Kent FDs are successful. Accent courses are available in Kent but they are struggling to fill up the places in Canterbury. He asked if members could talk to their associates.

(b) Kent Dental Mentorship & Study Group – Dr Smith reported that talks have provisionally been set up for next year including oral anticoagulants; special care dentistry and composites. **Action:** Dr Smith will finalise flyers and circulate over the next few weeks. Dr Nugent said that he would also inform colleagues.

15. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(a) British Fluoridation Society – [Attached Correspondence](#) – Dr Winstone received an email from the British Fluoridation Society requesting a donation of £500 from each LDC to help support the water fluoridation. It was **agreed** by members that a donation of £500 would be donated on behalf of the KLDC. **Action:** To ask Dr Winstone to arrange the donation

(b) One You Kent a Community Health Improvement Service emailed some correspondence to highlight the services they provide. They cover all areas in Kent, except Medway, the most relevant service to Dentistry is the 'One You Smokefree' service however they provide a number of services around healthy lifestyle choices. **Action:** Dr Smith to circulate the Powerpoint and information after the meeting.

(c) CPD - At the April (AGM) meeting it was discussed whether or not the KLDC would like to be involved in CPD events. This topic was tabled to be discussed further at tonight's meeting. After further debate it was agreed that the KLDC would promote courses more readily via Accent and the Kent Dental Mentorship Study Group and focus on getting these places filled. **Action:** The information will be put on the website where it is will be readily available for all to see.

(d) BDA petition to urge the government to take mandatory policy action to reduce the high sugar content in commercial baby food and drinks – in a BBC Panorama Programme, the BDA highlighted the results of a market analysis they conducted on 209 baby food pouches aimed at children aged under 12 months, showing a quarter contained more sugar by volume than Coca Cola. **Action:** To email a link to the petition.

(e) Proposal Contract Reform Consultation Document – this is the NHS 10-year plan. **Action:** The link to this proposal will be emailed to members and Dr Smith requested that members please complete the online survey to ensure as much feedback is provided. Dr Batistoni advised that the proposed changes moving forward will include changes to urgent care provision and the way stabilisation phases of treatment are performed and paid. It is very complex and is due to be rolled out next April. To date there is no clarity on how this is going to be audited. Dr Hartle said that she had also looked at this and said that it could be open to abuse due to its complexity.

Action: KLDC to complete the online survey

16. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, 8th October 2025 – this meeting will be in person and on “zoom”.

FUTURE MEETINGS- Wednesday, 7th January 2026 – this meeting will be on “zoom” only

Wednesday, 1st April 2026 – AGM – this meeting will be face to face.

The meeting closed at 7.30 pm